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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 18 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

With reference to the letter of 15 April 1996 addressed to you by the Ambassador of Guinea in his capacity as the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (E/CN.4/1996/162), I have the honour to enclose* the text of a statement made by the official spokesman of the Government of India and to request that this letter, along with its enclosure, be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 10.

I would also like to add that we are dismayed that the propaganda material that appears as an annexure to the letter of the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea in the form of a memorandum is also being circulated as an official document.

[Signed] Arundhati GHOSE

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* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Annex

STATEMENT MADE BY THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON 18 APRIL 1996

A declaration by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, issued in Geneva on 15 April 1996, has come to our notice. As with OIC statements on Jammu and Kashmir in the past, this declaration too bears the stamp of Pakistan's hostile and malicious propaganda against India. It is regrettable that OIC has once again allowed itself to be used by Pakistan to promote its anti-India tirade.

The Government of India is committed to the resumption of the political process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Elections to the Lok Sabha [Lower House of the Indian Parliament] are to be held shortly. India's tradition of holding free and fair elections is universally acknowledged. The election process in Jammu and Kashmir will naturally be in keeping with this tradition. It is a complete travesty of the truth to allege otherwise.

The version given of the recent incidents in Hazratbal is a distortion of the facts. The security forces acted to prevent a desecration of the holy shrine. It is totally false to term Jalil Andrabi's tragic death as custodial. Investigations in the matter are in progress under the directions of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

OIC should focus its attention on the proxy war being waged by Pakistan against India by fomenting violence and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. That would be the way to usher in peace and tranquillity in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Statements criticising India's policy only serve to encourage the terrorists.

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